



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEWIDE TEACHER SURVEY RESULTS
Teachers positive about working conditions, want participation in decision-making

PHOENIX – The results of a Statewide Teacher Working Conditions survey sponsored by Governor Janet Napolitano’s Office and the Arizona Education Association (AEA) are now available online at www.aztwc.org.

Early analysis of the data shows some general trends:

- Teachers are generally positive about their teaching and learning conditions
- Leadership is critical to retaining educators, and teachers are positive about school leadership in many areas
- Teachers would like more time to plan and collaborate
- Teachers would like more opportunities to participate in school decision-making

“Excellent teaching is critically important to innovation and the long-term success of the Arizona economy,” said Governor Napolitano. “The results of this survey should be used to help create school working environments that are supportive of recruiting and retaining the best teachers throughout the state.”

Research shows that school working conditions play a significant role in where educators work and whether students learn. Therefore, although the survey results are generally positive, the data provides an opportunity for conversation on how working conditions can still be improved.

“By hearing directly from teachers and education support professionals who intimately understand teaching and learning conditions, we’ve all been given a great opportunity to make policy decisions based on data,” said AEA President John Wright. “These results will give us the information we need to make Arizona schools better places to work and learn.”

The AEA and the Arizona School Administrator’s Association (ASA) will use the data this summer to help form school and district level decisions about areas such as scheduling, professional development offerings, opportunities to support and cultivate teacher leadership and investments in facilities and resources.

“This survey reflects on the importance of leadership in education and on a strong correlation between leadership and positive working conditions. The survey supports the importance of a collaborative relationship in helping to make the public schools in education the best in the nation,” said ASA President Elect, Dr. Greg Wyman.

The voluntary survey was offered to all licensed, public school-based personnel throughout Arizona during a four-week period in March and April. Due to a collaborative effort between the Governor's Office, AEA, ASA and the Arizona Department of Education, approximately 32,000 educators (53 percent of those eligible) participated in the survey.

The results available online reflect only the raw survey data. A final report, analyzing the findings of the survey relative to student learning and teacher retention, will be released later this summer.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.